BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 24, 2004

| IN RE: |) | |
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| |) | |
| PETITION OF FOOTHILLS UTILITIES, INC. |) | DOCKET NO. |
| FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE |) | 04-00117 |
| AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE SEWER SERVICES |) | |
| IN BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE |) | |
| | - | |

ORDER APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER

This matter came before Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on May 10, 2004, for consideration of the *Petition of Foothills Utilities, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity* ("Petition") filed on April 19, 2004.

During the May 10, 2004 Authority Conference, the panel voted unanimously to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as the Hearing Officer in this matter to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, as necessary, and to render an initial decision on the merits of the *Petition* pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-301 and § 65-2-111 and such other legal authority as may be provided by law.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Authority's General Counsel or his designee is appointed Hearing Officer in this matter to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, as necessary, and to render an

initial decision on the merits of the *Petition*, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-301 and § 65-2-111 and such other legal authority as may be provided by law.

Deborah Taylor Tab

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Ron Jones, Director